

## Message Text

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62  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /075 W

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R 101539Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7972  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 3201

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, UR, AU  
SUBJ: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO GDR

REFS: (A) USBERLIN 0447 (B) BONN 3897

1. WHETHER ABRASIMOV'S RETURN TO GDR AS SOVIET  
AMBASSADOR SIGNIFIES STIFFER SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD  
FRG, GDR, OR WEST BERLIN (REF A) IS NOT NOW CLEAR, BUT  
IT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE SOME SOVIET DISSATISFACTION  
REGARDING BERLIN OR EAST GERMAN AFFAIRS. FROM  
STANDPOINT OF ABRASIMOV'S CAREER, RETURN TO  
BERLIN PRESUMABLY GUARANTEES HIS RETENTION OF CPSU  
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CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AT 1975 CPSU PARTY

CONGRESS, BUT THIS IS CERTAINLY NO PROMOTION. THIS IS, IN FACT, A SURPRISINGLY SHARP TURNABOUT IN PROSPECTS SINCE RECENTLY THE MOSCOW PRESS LISTED ABRASIMOV BELOW FONMIN GROMYKO AND AHEAD OF FIRST DEPUTY FONMIN KUZNETSOV, WHICH SUGGESTED A POSSIBLE PROMOTION IN THE MFA. BERLIN ASSIGNMENT COULD ALSO BE REGARDED AS A SLIGHT DEMOTION FROM ABRASIMOV'S ASSIGNMENT AS HEAD OF A CPSU DEPARTMENT, PRESUMABLY DEPARTMTNT FOR CADRES ABROAD, WHICH SUPERVISES OVERSEAS POSTINGS OF ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS. AMORE FRIVOLOUS INTERPRETATTION OF THE POSTING OF ABRASIMOV TO BERLIN PUT FORWARD BY LOCAL WAGS IS THAT HE IS NEEDED TO OFFSET THE BUMBLING OF GROMYKO'S SON, THE NEW MINISTER IN THE EMBASSY.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT BONN'S SUGGESTION (REF B) THAT THE DECISION TO SHIFT YEFREMOV FROM BERLIN TO VIENNA WAS A RELATIVELY RECENT ONE. WE REGARD YEFREMOV'S TRANSFER AS A PARTY DEMOTION SINCE SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN VIENNA NORMALLY DO NOT CARRY CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. WHILE THIS WOULD IMPLY DISSATISFACTION AT HIS HANDLING OF THE EMBASSY, THE REASONS FOR THE TRANSFER COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE AS MUCH TO DO WITH SOVIET PERSONNEL MANEUVERINGS BEFORE THE CPSU CONGRESS AS WITH BILATERAL SOVIET-GERMAN RELATIONS.  
STOESSLE

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NNN

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, GC, GE, UR, AU, (ABRASIMOV, P A)  
**To:** STATE  
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